RG104 E-1 Box 123 Jan-June 1881

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.

Washington, D. C., April 13, 1881.

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.

Supt. U.S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Your letter of the 31st ult., to the Treasurer of the United States requesting him to draw for the balance in your hands belonging to the minor coinage redemption fund was referred by that officer to the Secretary of the Treasury, who has referred the same under date of the 4th inst., to this office with the following endorsement: "Respectfully referred to

RG104 E-1 Box 123 Jan-June 1881

to the Director of the Mint for report as to whether the old coins herein mentioned can, under the law, be re-coined into minor coins of denominations at present authorized by law, & if so whether they can be recoined without loss to the Government."

There was also referred at the same time a letter of the assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia stating that he had on hand $10,625 in mutilated five and three-cent nickle coins, & $30,445 in one cent nickle pieces.

I will thank you to inform me whether the old copper cents, & one & two cent bronze pieces mentioned in your

RG104 E-1 Box 123 Jan-June 1881

letter as on hand in the redemption fund can be converted without loss into one cent bronze coins; also, whether the one cent copper nickle can, by the addition of thirteen per cent., or the necessary amount of nickle, be converted into five cent nickles without material loss.

As a number of one cent copper nickles have heretofore been used in the manufacture of five-cent nickle pieces, I would thank you to inform this office the authority under which this was done, & what loss, if any, occurred in the recoinage of these pieces.

I have also to request that you

RG104 E-1 Box 123 Jan-June 1881

will inform me of the total number of copper nickle pieces that have been melted & used in the manufacture of five cent nickle coins since the discontinuance of the coinage of the one cent copper nickle, as well as the number of two cent bronze pieces & old copper cents & mutilated one cent bronze pieces that have been melted & consumed in the coinage of one cent bronze pieces since the coinage of the one cent bronze piece was authorized & the discontinuance of the coinage of the two cent piece.

Very respectfully,

R. E. Preston

acting Director.

RG104 E-1 Box 123 Jan-June 1881

378

A. D. M.

Wash. D. C.

April 13/81

R. E. Preston

Enquiries whether the old copper cents of 1864 bronze can be recoined into 1¢ Bronze pieces without material loss; also, if the copper nickels can be recoined into 5¢ pieces without loss. Wants statement of former similar recoinages.

Rec'd April 14th 1881.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 123

[Abstract:] Enquires whether the old copper cents & 1 & 2¢ bronzes can be recoined… 398

Treasury Department,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,
April 13, 1881

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.
Supt. U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Your letter of the 31st ulto., to the Treasurer of the United States requesting him to draw for the balance in your hands belonging to the minor coinage redemption fund was referred by that officer to the Secretary of the Treasury, who has referred the same under date of the 4th inst., to this office with the following endorsement: "Respectfully referred to the Director of the Mint for report as to whether the old coins herein mentioned can, under the law, be re-coined into minor coins of denominations at present authorized by law, & if so whether they can be recoined without loss to the Government". There was also referred at the same time a letter of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia stating that he had on hand $10,625 in mutilated five and three-cent nickel coins, & $30,445 in one cent nickel pieces.

I will thank you to inform me whether the old copper cents, & one & two cent bronze pieces mentioned in your letter as on hand in the redemption fund can be converted without loss into one cent bronze coins; also, whether the once cent copper nickel can, by the addition of thirteen per cent, or the necessary amount of nickel, be converted into five cent nickels without material loss. As a number of one cent copper nickels have heretofore been used in the manufacture of five-cent nickel pieces, I would thank you to inform this Office the authority under which this was done, & what loss, if any, occurred in the recoinage of these pieces.

I have also to request that you will inform me of the total number of copper nickel pieces that have been melted & used in the manufacture of five cent nickel coins since the discontinuance of the coinage of the one cent copper nickel, as well as the number of two cent bronze pieces & old copper cents & mutilated one cent bronze pieces that have been melted & consumed in the coinage of one cent bronze pieces since the coinage of the one cent bronze piece was authorized & the discontinuance of the coinage of the two cent piece.

Very respectfully,
R.E. Preston
Acting Director.